



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2006-43

Monday, March 27, 2006

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**Burmaster praises legislation that
improves library operations and efficiency**

MADISON—The governor signed legislation today that will lower costs for library operations, improve organizational efficiency of library services in the state, and provide greater clarity in Wisconsin library laws. The bill (Senate Bill 273) was based on recommendations of the State Superintendent's Task Force on Public Library Legislation and Funding. The task force conducted a comprehensive review of issues facing Wisconsin's 387 public libraries and 17 library systems and made recommendations for statutory improvements. The task force included broad representation of the statewide public library community as well as citizen and legislative members.

"I want to thank Gov. Jim Doyle for signing this bill, and Sen. Joe Leibham (R-Sheboygan) and Rep. Stephen Freese (R-Dodgeville) for their efforts in advancing legislation that will help our libraries better serve the citizens of Wisconsin. The bill that passed through both houses of the Legislature without amendment represents long-term efforts by task force members and the library community.

"The legislation, which modernizes and clarifies state laws regarding libraries, will allow them to operate more efficiently by streamlining procedures for the approval of library expenditures for salaries, benefits, and other recurrent expenditures. Additionally, the legislation will allow libraries to pay less for licenses to commercial databases by not requiring regional remote access.

"The governor's signing of this bill today is good news for Wisconsin libraries as they approach the National Library Week observance next week. The April 2-8 observance celebrates the contributions libraries make to our culture and quality of life and this legislation supports libraries in their mission of service to the citizens of Wisconsin."

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